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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 04
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
INTRODUCED BY
Dani ce Pi craux

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE DEVELOP MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS FOR JUDICIAL DISTRICTS, CONTAIN REPRESENTATIVES FROM CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL FIELDS AND ACT AS A RESOURCE TO MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's child abuse rate is ten percent higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, cases of serious child physical abuse and sexual abuse do not have consistent system resolutions; and

WHEREAS, child abuse victims deserve effective case management; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive data collection systems facilitate the reporting, investigation, prosecution and disposition of child abuse cases; and

WHEREAS, national consensus indicates that a

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1 multidisciplinary approach to intervention in child abuse cases
2 improves outcomes for victims and holds offenders accountable;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the New Mexico office of the attorney general
5 developed the New Mexico crimes against children task force to
6 study a comprehensive approach consisting of multidisciplinary
7 teams that improve outcomes for child abuse victims and hold
8 offenders accountable;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico crimes against children
11 task force be requested to develop a multidisciplinary team for
12 each judicial district in this state; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against
14 children task force be requested to require each
15 multidisciplinary team to include a district attorney or
16 assistant district attorney, a representative from each law
17 enforcement agency within the jurisdiction, a representative
18 from the protective services division of the children, youth
19 and families department and an appropriate representative from
20 the medical community; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against
22 children task force be requested to require each
23 multidisciplinary team to include treatment providers, victim
24 advocates, tribal representatives, probation officers, school
25 representatives and representatives from other entities bearing

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1 an interest in children's welfare; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against
3 children task force be requested to require each
4 multidisciplinary team to meet at least once per month and to
5 adopt a formal protocol to investigate, prosecute and manage
6 child abuse cases based upon a model protocol developed by the
7 task force; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least once every three
9 years the New Mexico crimes against children task force be
10 requested to review each protocol that is developed and
11 endorsed by each multidisciplinary team; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against
13 children task force be requested to require multidisciplinary
14 teams to develop a tracking, recording and review system for
15 child abuse cases; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against
17 children task force be requested to continue to contain
18 representatives from all necessary professional fields and act
19 as a resource to multidisciplinary teams by developing a model
20 protocol, collecting data and reviewing cases; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against
22 children task force be requested to continue to convene and to
23 provide annual recommendations for legislative initiatives to
24 the legislative health and human services committee; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico crimes against

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1 children task force be permitted to apply for and receive
2 grants from public and private organizations; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the attorney general, the secretary of public
5 safety, the secretary of children, youth and families, the
6 secretary of health, the secretary of public education, the New
7 Mexico district attorneys association, the county sheriff's
8 association and the city police chiefs association.

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